

And then as has often happened in the history of Cyprus an opportunity was lost. Mr. Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, would not take the Annan plan to his people for a referendum. Denktash abandoned the Annan plan. And a frustrated U.N. closed up shop and went home.

And then something wonderful happened. Mr. Denktash unilaterally opened up the borders. Some on Cyprus and in Congress have looked upon this action with suspicion, but I don't think anyone can dispute that the results have been overwhelming positive for the Cypriot people. There are a lot of experts with different opinions on why Mr. Denktash did what he did, but one thing is for certain. Cypriots have begun talking to Cypriots again. An artificial line has been eliminated and I don't think there's any turning back.

One of my constituents, Theo Hadjitheodosiou from Holmdale, New Jersey, was born in Cyprus. He is Greek Cypriot and recently returned to Cyprus to cross the Green Line to see one of the homes where some of his family used to live before the 1974 invasion. He said it was nice to go, but that he remained saddened by the continued occupation by Turkish forces.

Can you imagine having to show your passport to go from Trenton to Pennsylvania? That's what it's like. The division has been particularly hard on the Turkish Cypriots, he said. Like many other Cypriots, Theo sees the opening of the border as only a first step on the road toward a settlement.

I am hopeful that the renewed human contact between Greek and Turkish Cypriots will accelerate the political process. Eventually, trust will be rebuilt among people. And then the enemies of peace will have no choice but to let go of their stubborn, outdated positions to make way for a new generation that will embrace a peaceful future—a future of one Cyprus, made up of Turkish and Greek Cypriots—in which all citizens are not only Cypriot, but more importantly, European.

I will continue to do what I can in Congress to support a Cyprus solution based on the Annan plan. I will continue to urge the Bush administration to convince the Turks in Ankara that a solution in Cyprus will provide the gateway to Turkey's own goals of a European future. As elections approach in the Turkish-occupied area, I will ask the administration to make it clear to Ankara not to interfere. Polls recently conducted on Cyprus indicate that if free and fair elections were held in the North, the Turkish Cypriots would elect a new, pro-settlement leadership. A new Turkish Cypriot leadership that represents the aspirations of a majority of Turkish Cypriots would be a welcome development and would probably lead to the renewal of settlement negotiations.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today on Cyprus Independence Day to celebrate the progress that Cyprus continues to make as an incoming member state of the European Union, as a vibrant democracy with a robust market economy, and as an increasingly important partner of the United States. And I hope, as I do each year, that the people of Cyprus will soon enjoy the benefits of a peaceful settlement.

## HURRICANE ISABEL

### HON. STENY H. HOYER

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, last month, our region was subjected to nature's unbridled wrath. And, despite the advances in technology that gave us fair warning that a storm of this magnitude was approaching, there was little anyone could do to escape the destruction Isabel left in her wake. The five counties I represent all suffered enormous damage, families were displaced and without power for days, homes and businesses were demolished, and our natural resources were destroyed by the strength of the winds and rain that accompanied this vicious hurricane.

Our region responded quickly and directed the full force of its resources to assist residents and business owners with their recovery efforts. I am extremely grateful to our first responders, local and state officials, and disaster assistance teams from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Maryland Emergency Management Agency (MEMA), the Army Corps of Engineers, law enforcement officials and community volunteers who I saw throughout our communities when I visited parts of St. Mary's, Anne Arundel, and Calvert counties in the week following the storm.

On Thursday, September 25 I joined Senators SARBANES and MIKULSKI, as well as my colleagues in the Maryland Congressional Delegation, to hear from representatives from several federal and State of Maryland agencies on relief efforts underway to help the citizens of Maryland and small businesses throughout the State. We were informed that the counties were completing their Preliminary Damage Assessments which would be submitted to MEMA and FEMA so that funds could be designated to assist with the clean-up and recovery.

Thus far, Maryland has qualified for federal assistance with debris removal and emergency protective services. If the damage in other areas meets the threshold for disasters, Maryland could become eligible for more categories of federal assistance, including repair of roads and bridges, water control facilities, buildings and equipment, utilities and parks.

Recovering from this storm will be a long process, and we all will face challenges along the way. I will continue to work with elected officials and residents throughout the 5th District of Maryland to provide any resources I can to help in this recovery process.

## GROUPS RALLY TO SUPPORT YOUTH WORKER PROTECTION ACT

### HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, October 1, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, on September 23, 2003 I introduced H.R. 3139, the Youth Worker Protection Act, (YWPA). This bill will make necessary common sense changes to America's child labor laws, which have not been significantly amended since their creation nearly 70 years ago.

Mr. Speaker, according to the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) an average of 230,000 teenagers are injured on the job each year and even more shocking is the fact that an average of 67 teen workers die each year from injuries sustained while on the job. That means a teen worker dies from work related injuries in this country every five days.

The YWPA, addresses two major aspects of child labor: the deaths and serious injuries suffered by our young workers and the negative impact which working excessive hours during school can have on a child's education. I am honored to have the support of numerous organizations, including; the National Consumers League, the National Education Association (NEA), United Methodist Women, the International Initiative to End Child Labor, and Youth Advocate Program International. Mr. Speaker, these extraordinary organizations have dedicated themselves to advocating an end to exploitive child labor and I request that their letters be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

YOUTH ADVOCATE  
PROGRAM INTERNATIONAL,  
Washington, DC, September 3, 2003.

Hon. TOM LANTOS,  
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office  
Building, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LANTOS: Youth Advocate Program International would like to voice its strong support for the Youth Worker Protection Act and urge you to present this act to Congress at your earliest convenience.

YAP International believes that everyone, including children, can contribute to society through work. We believe job-skill training should be provided to young people and that youth should experience the pride that comes from work well done. We understand that in some situations children must work to meet their own survival needs and those of their family. However, gaining an education should be a youth's primary job and we support the Youth Worker Protection Act for formally recognizing and promoting this principle.

We support monitoring of child labor practices to ensure that work does not compromise the child's overall health, well-being, and access to free, compulsory and meaningful education. We strongly urge that monitoring efforts not only include the formal sector—work in a factory or business setting—but also work in the informal sector, including domestic workers, agricultural workers, street vendors, and heads of households/caregivers.

Youth Advocate Program International commends your leadership to update and strengthen child labor laws in the United States, and we urge you to continue supporting the Youth Worker Protection Act. Feel free to contact our office if we can provide any assistance to you in further promoting the rights of children. Thank you for your time and continued advocacy on behalf of youth worldwide.

In Service to Youth,

PATRICK J. SCHOOF,  
Director.

NATIONAL EDUCATION ASSOCIATION,  
Washington, DC.

Representative TOM LANTOS,  
House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE LANTOS: On behalf of the National Education Association's (NEA) 2.7 million members, we would like to express our support for the Youth Worker Protection Act.